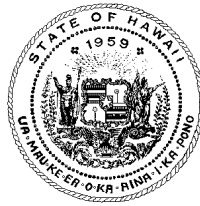


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

1177 Alakea Street, 6th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**MAX N. OTANI**  
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Corrections

**Jordan Lowe**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2774. SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER.**

by  
**Max N. Otani, Director**  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair  
Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

March 16, 2022; 10:00 a.m.  
Via Videoconference

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 2774, Senate Draft (SD) 1, which provides funding to further expand huikahi restorative circles as part of the reentry planning process at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC).

The success of these circles has allowed inmates to reconnect and reconcile with their families prior to release and to further develop their support system in the community.

As with other programs and services, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted this program, and WCCC has not been able to schedule these circles on a consistent basis. One restorative circle was conducted in the Fall of 2021.

The Department believes that this process would be even more effective as a jail-diversion option for individuals in the community, such as, probation violators.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony on SB 2774, SD 1.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2774, S.D. 1

**March 16, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Room 430 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2774, S.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 to the Department of Public Safety for the Women's Community Correctional Center to further expand reentry planning circles, also known as "huikahi" circles, which are a part of a reentry planning process shown to decrease recidivism.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

Phone/E-Mail: (808) 927-1214 / [kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)



## COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS

Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair

Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

10:00 AM

### **STRONG SUPPORT – SB 2774 SD1 – HUIKAHI RESTORATIVE CIRCLES at WCCC**

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf HD1 of the more than 4,008 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars<sup>1</sup> under the "care and custody" of the Department of Public Safety on any given day. We are always mindful that 1,110 of Hawai'i's imprisoned people are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Mahalo for this opportunity for Community Alliance on Prisons to share our strong support for SB 2774 SD1. The Huikahi Restorative Circles have been operating since 2005 in correctional facilities and are currently operating only at the Women's Community Correctional Center. For 17 years, this successful program has been funded through grants secured by the community and volunteers from the community.

This program has brought families, friends, and employers together for a healing and solution-focused gathering where everyone in the circle becomes part of the person's successful transition back to the community. It is truly a community process!

Please support and recommend that this wonderfully successful program that restores hope, builds relationships, and reunites families and friends is funded by state.

*It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.*

*Irish proverb*

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Public Safety, Weekly Population Report, March 7, 2022.

<https://dps.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Pop-Reports-Weekly-2022-03-97.pdf>



HAWAII SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION

## **SB2774 SD1 Huikahi Circles (Restorative Circles) for Offender Reentry**

COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS

Rep. Takashi Ohno, Chair

Rep. Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Wednesday, Mar 16 2022: 10:00 am : Videoconference

### **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2774 SD1:**

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the current chair of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder treatment and prevention agencies.*

HSAC supports the Hawaii version of Restorative Circles that is a group process with offenders, victims, family and friends and is now evidenced-based practices:

- It has been growing in its use as part of offender reentry processes.
- The group processes is self-directed, goal-oriented, and an active learning experience for participants.
- It promotes positive motivation to repair harm and to take responsibility for their futures.
- Besides decreasing recidivism, the Huikahi Circle provides healing for people harmed.

This engaging process is important because it involves the public to help with recidivism and reentry back into their communities.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for further questions.

COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Honorable Representative Takashi Ono, Chair  
Honorable Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2022  
TIME: 10:00 AM

**SUPPORT FOR SB2744 SD1 RELATING TO WOMEN'S COMMUNITY  
CORRECTIONAL CENTER (WCCC)**

The Women's Prison Project (WPP) strongly supports this measure appropriating \$200,000 to provide the [reentry planning process, known as huikahi circles](#), for incarcerated women in the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). I am Lorenn Walker and a member of WPP. After leaving my position as a Hawai'i deputy attorney general, including defending the state in prison litigation, I earned a masters degree in public health to address social problems our legal system cannot solve. I have been studying effective reentry strategies for incarcerated people for almost 20 years. I've authored over 50 published papers about my work in academic journals and books. My personal experiences motivate this work including being incarcerated at age 16, and assaulted by a stranger (required major surgery and hospitalization) at age 24.

Reentry planning for incarcerated individuals is vital for their successful return to the community, and their desistance from crime ([Taxman, 2004](#)). Huikahi circles are for people who take responsibility for their behavior and want to make amends with harmed loved ones and the community—and who want to plan for their transition back into the community.

The process was first piloted in 2005 at Waiawa Correctional Facility. It has been provided at several state prisons, and mainly at WCCC. The circles have been provided *pro bono* and with private grants to the state prisons. Except for the state's federal [2021 GEER grant](#), the state has never funded the process for adults.

The process has been [extensively researched](#). It is [healing for children](#) of incarcerated parents [and other loved ones](#). An [independent evaluation](#) of the process shows it reduces recidivism. Another cost and benefit evaluation, recently accepted for publication in a criminology journal, shows huikahi reentry planning circles can help decrease Hawai'i's prison population, which would save the state \$4.5 million annually in incarceration costs.

We urge the Committee to please pass this bill. If you have any questions about WPP's support please contact me Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH, at [lorenn@hawaii.edu](mailto:lorenn@hawaii.edu) or (808) 218-3712. Mahalo for your public service.

COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Honorable Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair  
Honorable Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2022  
TIME: 10:00 AM

**SUPPORT FOR SB2744 SD1 RELATING TO WOMEN'S COMMUNITY  
CORRECTIONAL CENTER (WCCC)**

Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice (HFRJ) strongly supports this measure appropriating \$200,000 to provide the [reentry planning process, known as huikahi circles](#), for incarcerated women in the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). HFRJ was incorporated as a non-profit in 1981 by a group of educators and lawyers testing an education program ([Street Law](#)) for youth under Honolulu's family court jurisdiction. Since then, HFRJ has developed and studied numerous educational and restorative justice projects. Over 50 papers about HFRJ's work have been published.

Reentry planning for incarcerated individuals is vital for their successful return to the community, and for their desistance from crime ([Taxman, 2004](#)). Huikahi circles are for people who take responsibility for their behavior and want to make amends with harmed loved ones and the community—and who want to plan for their transition back into the community.

HFRJ first piloted the huikahi reentry circle model in 2005 at Waiawa Correctional Facility. It has been provided at several state prisons, and mainly at WCCC. The circles have been provided *pro bono* and with private grants to the state prisons. Except for the state's federal [2021 GEER grant](#), the state has never funded the process for adults.

The process has been [extensively researched](#). It is [healing for children](#) of incarcerated parents [and other loved ones](#). An [independent evaluation](#) of the process shows it reduces recidivism. A cost and benefit evaluation, recently accepted for publication in a criminology journal, shows huikahi reentry planning circles can help decrease Hawai'i's prison population saving the state \$4.5 million annually in incarceration costs.

We urge the Committee to please pass this bill. If you have any questions about HFRJ's support, please contact me at [lorenn@hawaii.edu](mailto:lorenn@hawaii.edu) or (808) 218-3712. Mahalo for your public service.

Aloha, Lorenn Walker, JD, MPH, Director HFRJ

**SB-2774-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 4:10:20 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stand in Support.



**SB-2774-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 5:09:41 PM

Testimony for CMV on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden and members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Eaton and I support this bill. Mahalo for your service to all the people of Hawai'i.

**SB-2774-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 10:51:29 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diana Bethel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1774 SD1 Description:

Makes an appropriation to further the practice of huikahi restorative circles at the Women's Community Correctional Center.

Preparation for release should always include making a detailed plan of action. When family members, friends, and supportive officials, teachers, etc., are involved, the chances of success are the best. The views of all stakeholders are aired, relationships are mended, and all participants focus on mapping out a successful reentry process for the individual.

Making a reentry plan is the key to successful reintegration into society. This is money well spent. It reduces recidivism and the high cost of incarceration that is imposed on tax payers.

**SB-2774-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:17:23 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Huikahi Restorative Circles at WCCC have been very successful in reducing recidivism and have promoted healing for families and loved ones. Please support SB2774 and fund this program.

**SB-2774-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 11:11:32 AM

Testimony for CMV on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: House of Representatives, The Thirty-First Legislature Regular Session Of 2022

Committee On Corrections, Military, & Veterans

FROM: Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

RE: SB 2774 (In Support)

Dear Chair Ohno Vice-Chair, Ganaden, and Members of the Committee,

Please support this bill. We have a lot of work to do to improve our criminal justice system.

Passing this Women's Community Correctional Center (Huikahi Circles) bill is an important step towards this goal.

Thank you,

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua

(Oahu Resident for 29 years)